

*Note on the Nest of Contopus virens.*—MR. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited a nest of the "Wood Pewee," *Contopus virens*, built on a dead branch of a black-walnut tree on the grounds of Colonel Etting, of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, showing that it was fastened to the branch by spider's webs, and that the lichens with which the nest was so beautifully ornamented, were evidently attached to the nest in the same manner. There was no evidence of the employment of "viscid saliva" in building the nest, as contended by some ornithological writers.

Mr. Meehan remarked on the great beauty of the nest of this bird, in consequence of the employment of lichens in covering the outside, and observed that so far as human knowledge had yet penetrated, no physiological advantage resulted to this bird by the great trouble it took in this ornamentation, over other birds which were indifferent to such beauty; and we were left wholly, so far, to the conclusion that a love of beauty alone actuates the bird in the preparation of its work.

*Note on an Abnormal Cabbage.*—MR. J. O. SCHIMMEL exhibited a plant of cabbage, which, instead of the usual head, made a stalk nearly three feet high, with a panicle of flowers at the top.

Mr. MEEHAN remarked that only on a smaller and weaker scale, this was the normal condition of the cabbage-plant, as he had collected it on the chalky cliffs of the sea-coasts of Europe. In nature the seeds matured in spring, and, falling to the ground, sprouted and made plants at once, which took the rest of the season to prepare for flowering the next spring. But the gardener saved the seed till late in the autumn or very early spring before sowing it, and this favored the vegetative rather than the reproductive system of the plant. In this case the longitudinal growth was arrested, and if we examine the regular cabbage-head, we find ten, fifteen, or often more leaves forming a single cycle round the stem, as in all cases of arrestation of growth—forming of a cone in the pine, for instance—the number of leaves in a cycle were increased. The formation of a head of cabbage was precisely after the method of nature in the making of a pine cone, and this was brought about simply by the change of season of sowing the seed, from that provided by nature. In the case of this specimen, nature had asserted her prerogative to do things in her own way, notwithstanding the change of season by man, though she did not get her way time enough to open the flowers and perfect seed. Here we found only five leaves to a cycle, and as we saw by the overlapping bases of the leaves, which formed the cabbage-stalk, the spiral arrangement was from left round to the right, or "with the sun."

*Earthworms Drawing Leaves into the Ground.*—MR. POTTS exhibited a box of earth showing the action of the earthworm